

KANSAS

ARTS COMMISSION

KAC Awards \$1.5 million in Grants to Artists, Organizations, Schools

In March, the Kansas Arts Commission announced that it has awarded more than \$1.5 million through 345 grants to organizations and local communities throughout the state of Kansas in fiscal year 2008. More than half of those grants (194) went to organizations in rural communities.

The agency impacts nearly every community in Kansas through grants and by providing business develop-

ment educational opportunities to local organizations, artists schools and community organizations. With a budget of just \$2.3 million (\$1.6 million provided by the state of Kansas and the rest from the National Endowment for the Arts), the Kansas Arts Commission has shown that its support for the arts can provide greater statewide benefits. According to the Americans for the Arts, for every dollar invested in the arts, more than seven dollars are generated.

“We are proud of our record of supporting the arts in all corners of the state, from small rural communities to our larger cities and towns,” said Kansas Arts Commission Chair Anita Wolgast. “The arts have a strong impact on the economics of communities, with recent Kansas studies having shown that spending in the arts deliver back more than what they receive.”

A Letter from Senate President Stephen Morris

When the economy gets tight, the Kansas Legislature looks for ways to limit or cut back on spending. Individual Kansans do the same thing for themselves and their families. It just makes sense. What does *not* make sense, though, is cutting out those things that enrich our lives.

As lawmakers seek new sources of state revenue, many of us first look to economic development. To recruit top industries, attract new employers and grow existing businesses, we must assure them our standard of living is as desirable as any, in larger cities or on the coasts. We can point with pride to Kansas’ established arts community and to efforts that nurture and develop new artists and programs. Our cultural resources have as

much to do with quality of life as excellent schools and health care.

Through the efforts of the Kansas Arts Commission, the money allocated by the Legislature goes further than ever. Technology allows the Commission to reach out even more effectively to remote and distant corners of the state with its many programs to encourage, develop and promote arts programs and Kansas artists. I’m pleased to know communities in my district in far southwest Kansas have benefited this year from grants and other assistance offered by the KAC.

There is always more work to be done. I will be interested to see the results of the study commissioned by the KAC on the statewide economic impact of the arts. While it’s no surprise the arts enhance our



*Sen. Stephen R. Morris
President of the Kansas Senate*

quality of life, some may be amazed to learn how positively the arts affect the economy. The KAC provides a strong foundation for the arts across our state. I look forward to working with the Commission to support and foster the arts and artists in the years to come.

The *Mission* of the Kansas Arts Commission

To provide opportunities for the people of Kansas to experience, celebrate and value the arts throughout their lives.

Kansas Arts Commission

700 SW Jackson St., Ste. 1004
Topeka, KS 66603-3774
Voice: 785/296-3335
Fax: 785/296-4989
E-mail: kac@arts.ks.gov
Website: <http://arts.ks.gov>

Administration

Llewellyn Crain
Executive Director
lcrain@arts.ks.gov

Chris Howell
Chief Operating Officer
chris@arts.ks.gov

Leslie Garwood
Sr. Administrative Specialist
leslie@arts.ks.gov

Robyn Horton
Communications Manager
robyn@arts.ks.gov

Program Staff

Christine Dotterweich Bial
Program Manager
Community and Artist Partnerships
christine@arts.ks.gov

Margaret Weisbrod Morris
Program Manager
Arts-in-Education
margaret@arts.ks.gov

Raena Sommers
Program Manager
Organizational Partnerships
raena@arts.ks.gov

Sarah VanLanduyt
Program Manager
Organizational Support
sarah@arts.ks.gov

Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings!

In recent years, Americans for the Arts, the Kennedy Center, arts education alliances and scholars from throughout the country have been publishing results of studies on the value of the arts in education. Now a new Dana Foundation study by neuroscientists demonstrates the impact of the arts on brain development.

For example:

- An interest in the performing arts leads to a high state of motivation that improves other domains of cognition
- Music training helps with reading and sequence learning
- Music and geometry skills are linked
- Training in acting appears to lead to memory improvement

A 2006 study from the University of Kansas showed that students in top quality music programs scored 22% higher in English and 20% higher in mathematics on standardized tests. The College Board reports that in 2006 SAT-takers with coursework in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal portion of the test and 43 points higher on the math portion.

The skills that the arts teach are essential to our nation's future. I congratulate all of you who are working with learners of all ages to help them develop their minds through the arts.

For more information on these arts education studies, go to the websites of the Dana Foundation (<http://www.dana.org/artseducation.aspx>) and the Music Educators National Conference (<http://www.menc.org>).



Llewellyn Crain
Executive Director



Llewellyn Crain

Dates to Remember

Kansas Arts on Tour: Roster Artists

- Guidelines available online: June 13
- Application deadline: September 18

Poet Laureate of Kansas 2009-2011

- Guidelines available online: June 13
- Application deadline: October 2

Governor's Arts Awards

- Guidelines available online: July 15
- Nomination deadline: September 18

Kansas Artist Fellowship Awards

- Guidelines available online: July 15
- Application deadline: November 24



Commission Launches Kansas Arts Network

The Kansas Arts Commission has now formed the Kansas Arts Network (KAN). KAN is a peer support network comprised of six arts organizations representing the six regions of Kansas. Each organization serves as a peer mentor to the nonprofit and government arts organizations and artists within their region and throughout the state.

Using a combination of their professional experience and expertise, these mentor organizations will:

- Guide and assist community arts organizations and artists.

- Provide a means for peer staff, organizations and artists to support and help each other.
- Promote participation in and advocacy for the arts in Kansas.

“We are thrilled to welcome the KAN mentors,” said Llewellyn Crain, KAC executive director. “This group of outstanding arts administrators will contribute immeasurably to the vitality and success of the arts in Kansas.”

Organizations who would like peer assistance are encouraged to contact their regional mentor directly. For a list of regions by county and regional coordinator contact information, go to: <http://arts.ks.gov/kan/index.shtml>

Gallery Walks Pave Way to the Arts for Kansas Communities

Small and large communities in the state have discovered that gallery walks are a great way to engage people in the arts. Gallery walks are tours of local art galleries and exhibits, with the intention to stimulate interest and exposure for the arts. For

organizers of gallery walks in Kansas, the events do more than introduce and support the arts. They create a social atmosphere and provide economic benefits to communities.

Continued on next page...

Commissioners

Anita Wolgast, Chair
Topeka

Judy Langley, Vice-Chairman
Hutchinson

John Divine, Secretary-Treasurer
Salina

Jennie Becker
Wichita

Christine Downey-Schmidt
Inman

Ann Evans
Lawrence

Lon Frahm
Colby

Grant Glenn
Lawrence

Novelene Ross
Wichita

Lemuel Sheppard
Pittsburg

Don't miss Kansas' premiere art event of the year!

The Governor's Arts Awards is an annual event hosted by the Kansas Arts Commission to honor and celebrate Kansans who have made significant contributions to the arts.

Thursday, June 26
6:00 to 9:00 pm
Memorial Union, Washburn University

For more information, go to <http://arts.ks.gov/gaa/index.shtml>
or contact the Kansas Arts Commission at kac@art.ks.gov or 785/296-3335.



Final Friday Gallery Crawl, Wichita

Community Gallery Walks

Continued from previous page...

In the southern part of the state, the Wichita Downtown Development Corporation (WDDC) joined the Final Friday Gallery Crawl in 2005, and the event has been a huge success for the city, attracting more than 2,000 attendees, and with over 40 downtown galleries and shops participating.

“The art walk has increased awareness of the vast array of visual and performing arts in Wichita,” said Ann Keefer, vice president of marketing for WDDC. “It has grown into a family friendly, cultural force that provides new social opportunities for area residents and visitors.

“Gallery owners and other participants have also reported more sales and activity,” she said. “The WDDC has nurtured a stronger collaboration with art groups and reinforced the arts as an important economic and cultural anchor in the community.”

The Hays Arts Council puts on four gallery walks each year, with the next one scheduled for June 20.

“Gallery walks have become the new ice cream socials,” said Brenda Meder, executive director of the Hays Arts Council. “Our attendees are a diverse group from the surrounding community: artsy types, college students, senior citizens, families and young professionals.

“These events make an economic impact,” she said. “People who come make a night of it by going to dinner before or after, and then filling up on gasoline to go home.”

Interested in hosting a gallery walk in your community?

Contact the
Kansas Arts Commission
at 785/296-3335 or
kac@arts.ks.gov to learn about
grant opportunities
available to support
your arts event!

Not having an art gallery in Colby didn't stop the members of the High Plains Art Club from featuring area artists. Last summer the club worked with downtown businesses to create the June Art Jubilee.

“We started by sending letters to downtown merchants, the library and two banks, explaining that we would like to have one artist show their work in a store for the entire month of June,” said Marjorie Brown, secretary of the High Plains Art Club in Colby. “We ended up with 13 merchants in Colby's downtown area, and have received many positive comments.”



ARTS COMMISSION

700 SW Jackson St., Ste. 1004
Topeka, KS 66603-3774
359-01

Address Service Requested

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 418
Topeka, KS